

• Fox, Susan

From: Gary Carlson [garycarlson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 5:09 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Fwd: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gary Carlson <garycarlson@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2010 at 5:05 PM
Subject: Re: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)
To: "Fox, Susan" <sfox@mt.gov>

On Sat, Nov 20, 2010 at 11:56 AM, Fox, Susan <sfox@mt.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your letter of interest for the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. The selection committee would like you to respond to the following questions by December 3. If you have not sent in a resume, please send one also. The selection committee will meet sometime the week of December 6. I will get that information to you as soon as I can. Thanks for your interest, Susan

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP? No, I am not although I am 100% comfortable with my qualifications and ethics.
2. What is your legal writing experience? During my time at Headquarters Marine Corps I was a Branch Head in responding to Congressional inquiries and monitoring and responding to pieces of legislation. I was responsible for turning around response time on numerous issues. I also handled several high profile legal cases for the Marine Corps. Later when I was a civilian political appointee I was the chief architect of the current law on veterans rights with employers. The act was signed into law by President Clinton.
3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP? No, I have not.
4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative? I ran for the House of Representatives, District #1 in Montana against Pat Williams in 1984. In 1996 I was one of 8 Republicans running for the US Senate in Minnesota. I have been active in Republican activities in four states: Montana, Minnesota, California and Virginia.
5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives? Yes, Number four would answer this. However, I have also been a professor teaching the US Constitution and US Government and I did this without emphasizing any particular party. instead, I taught the Constitution. I am also a retired Marine Corps LTCOL. That should explain my character. I not only could, but I would render all decisions according to law and I would be impartial 100%.

6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits? Of course, I would go by what the law is. Do I have personal opinions? Sure, I do, but that would not be my role. Philosophically, I am afraid we are at a point where money seems to be a real obstacle for good candidates of any party to even consider running for office. That is unfortunate for all of us. Would I recommend improvements to the present system if I could so as Director? Yes, I would not be afraid to make recommendations as time goes on if it would improve the situation. I believe my recommendations would be helpful.

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist? Yes, in addition to my political background, my wife, Joan has worked in several capacities. she worked in Washington, DC for the American Defense Foundation/Institute. She even coordinated one summit meeting in DC between members of our government and Taiwan. She also worked for former Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida. On the POW-MIA issue she was an advisor to former Senator DeConcini of Arizona when he met with White House staff. The question was the status of Americans remaining behind on the POW-MIA issue. Both of us were also active as family members on POW-MIA issues for many years.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities? That is an interesting question. The answer is probably no, although, I, personally, would review from a legislative perspective the entire financial campaign regulations.

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Fox, Susan

From: Gary Carlson [garycarlson11@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 9:38 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Cc: Keebler, Patti
Subject: Carlson/Followup

Susan:

This is just a reminder and something you should definitely add to my answers to the questions. A Legal/Legislative Officer at Headquarters Marine Corps is automatically a non-partisan or bi-partisan position to start with. That would easily show that a strong quality for me in being the COPP.

Thanks Susan. I am going to copy Patti Keebler with this point as well.

Gary